

## ABSTRACT

5        A CAN device that supports a plurality n (where  $n \geq 3$ ) of message objects, including a plurality of registers associated with each message object, including at least one object match ID register that contains a multi-bit object match ID field, and at least one object mask register that contains a multi-bit object mask field; and, a CAN/CAL module that processes incoming messages. The CAN/CAL module assembles a multi-bit screener ID from selected bits of each incoming message to be acceptance filtered, compares the bits comprising the screener ID with corresponding bits of the object match ID field associated with each of at least designated ones of the plurality n of message objects, disregarding any bits of each object match ID field that are masked by corresponding bits of the associated object mask field, and then determines whether any of the comparisons results in a match. Any selected one or more bits of the object match ID field associated with each of the plurality n of message objects can be set to '1' or '0', and any selected one or more bits of the object mask field associated with each of the plurality n of message objects can be set to '1' or '0' in order to mask any selected one or more bits of the associated object match ID field, whereby the combination of the object match ID field and the object mask field associated with each of the plurality n of message objects constitutes a fully programmable match and mask filter. The CAN/CAL module has the capability to perform acceptance filtering on incoming messages constituting either standard or extended CAN frames. If more than one match is detected, a lowest-numbered (or, alternatively, highest-numbered) one of the message objects is designated to be the matching message object.

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